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(INSPECTOR GEN'L'S COMMENTS)

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Executive Registry

3-5247

9 December 1952

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Colonel Sheffield Edwards

SUBJECT: Your Memorandum of 5 December
Registry 3-5116

1. While the subject memorandum, dealing as it does with the eleven primary objectives of our security investigation, may possibly avoid in rare instances the necessity for investigation, it does not meet what I consider to be the primary problem associated with all security refusals.

2. Our present practice, when an applicant is not cleared, is to inform the applicant that the job for which he was being recruited has been eliminated. This is in most cases a palpable falsehood. In cases where a consultant is involved or where the applicant has been provisionally cleared or in a pool or otherwise is acquainted with the Agency, the story does not even have the cover of truth.

3. What is needed, in my opinion, is not a statement to applicants of what a security clearance covers, but a plausible statement of investigation objectives and criteria, failure to meet which cannot be construed by the applicant as a reflection upon his loyalty, trustworthiness or morals. In simple language, we must find an additional and credible statement to make to security turn downs which will close the matter. Our present method of handling such cases is not adult.

4. I seriously feel that the reading to an applicant of the criteria set forth in the subject memorandum will make even more difficult the problem of relations with an applicant who is not cleared. As long as Security is unwilling to discuss with an applicant the basis for a security refusal, it is incumbent upon the organization from the point of view of public relations to find a plausible story which will satisfy the applicant. Too few of our security refusals are on a clear black and white basis. The proposed approach is subject to the objection that once you list specifics you incite an elimination game by unsuccessful applicants - putting yourself right back into the position you want to avoid, namely, that of being pressed to specify exact grounds.

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5. A statement along the lines of Mr. [] memorandum seems to me to accomplish much more and to involve infinitely less risk of harm than that set forth in the subject memorandum.

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STUART HEDDEN
Inspector General

IG/SH:jck (8 December 1952)

- 2 -

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